

Message Text

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INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP

1. COMMENTARY ON THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP CONTINUES IN MEXICAN PRESS. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED MAIN THEMES AND MOST OF THAT APPEARING NOW IS REPETITIVE. BUT COLUMN WHICH APPEARS IN FEB 26 EXCELSIOR IS NOTEWORTHY IN OUR OPINION BECAUSE ITS AUTHOR, WRITER RICARDO GARIBAY, IS BELIEVED TO BE CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. HIS COLUMNS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAVE SUGGESTED THE PRESIDENT'S INFLUENCE. NOTABLE EXAMPLE WAS HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE VARIOUS PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE NOMINATION OF JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO LAST SEPTEMBER; HIS JUDGEMENT WAS THAT JLP WAS BEST CHOICE. SUBSEQUENTLY GARIBAY PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT USES HIM FOR AN OUTLET OF PERSONAL VIEWS, AS WHEN HE DEFENDED THE RASCALLY GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO STATE, AN ECHEVERRIA FAVORITE.

2. GARIBAY'S COLUMN IS A HYSTERICALLY VITRIOLIC AND SARCASTIC CONDEMNATION OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP. GARIBAY SAYS THE PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS TO UNDO ALL THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS BEEN TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH--THE "IDEOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA". GARIBAY ATTEMPTS TO SUPPORT THIS THESIS WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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A. JUST WHEN THE "IMPERIALISTIC BLOCKADE" OF CUBA IS ABOUT

TO END, KISSINGER RAISES THE ISSUE OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND PUTS THE "PUSILLANIMOUS DEMOCRACIES" OF CENTRAL AMERICA UP TO A CONDEMNATION OF IT;

B. IN A FEW WELL CHOSEN WORDS, THE SECRETARY WARNS AND THREATENS ABOUT "SELA, THE ANDEAN PACT, AND THE MULTINATIONAL CARIBBEAN FLEET;

C. MEXICAN EFFORTS TO MAKE CERDS A REALITY AMONG NATIONS COMES TO NAUGHT WHEN KISSINGER INVITES BRAZIL TO SHARE WORLD LEADERSHIP; "NOW HE HAS HIS SERGEANT OF THE SOUTHERN ZONE OF THE CONTINENT."

3. BUT GARIBAY CONTENTS THAT THE US IS BADLY MISTAKEN. THE SECRETARY "DID NOT VISIT THE LATIN AMERICA OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO". THREATS AND DIVISIVE TACTICS WON'T WORK NOW. IN AN ALLUSION TO VIETNAM, GARIBAY SAYS THE EXAMPLE OF A SMALL NATION WHICH REPELLED FOREIGN INVASION HAS TAUGHT THE 300 MILLION LATINS THAT WORKING TOGETHER THEY CAN DO THE SAME.

4. COMMENT: THE EVIDENCE THAT THIS COLUMN REFLECTS THE PRESIDENT'S OPINIONS IS TENUOUS, BUT SEVERAL ELEMENTS SUGGEST THE COLUMN COULD HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY GARIBAY'S ACCESS TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S VIEWS. THE TONE IS ONE OF BITTER PERSONAL WRATH AND VENGEANCE ON A SUBJECT IN WHICH GARIBAY HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY SHOWN INTEREST. THE KISSINGER TRIP IS DESCRIBED AS IF ITS SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO COMBAT ECHEVERRIA'S FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES. THE THIRD ELEMENT IS THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH GARIBAY IS BELIEVED TO HAVE WITH THE PRESIDENT.
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